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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re Application of:**

**Application No.:** 09/926,377      **Examiner:** Laura M. Schillinger

**Filing Date:** December 13, 2001      **Art Unit:** 2813

**First Inventor:** Thomas Grassl      **Customer No.:** 23364

**Attorney No.:** GRAS3003/JEK/JJC      **Confirmation No.:** 9840

**For:**      **CIRCUIT SUITABLE FOR VERTICAL INTEGRATION  
AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Pursuant to Rule 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted on Form PTO-1449. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the Examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each patent listed on Form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith.

**Statement of Timeliness**

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the mailing of either the mailing of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance but before payment of the Issue Fee. The certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is submitted

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below and the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) and § 1.17(i) is submitted herewith.

#### **Certification**

It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

#### **Additional Comments**

The patent listed on Form PTO-1449 was cited during the course of the German counterpart application in an Office action dated June 3, 2005. During examination of the German application, claims 1 and 2 in the German application were considered patentable over the cited patent. The subject matter of German claims 1 and 2 form portions of independent claim 19 of the pending application.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Date: August 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin J. Cassell", written over a horizontal line.

JUSTIN J. CASSELL  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 46,205



Customer 23364

Sheet 1 of 1

<b>B/O Form PTO-1449</b>  U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office  Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant	<b>Atty. Docket Number</b> <b>GRAS3003/JEK</b>	<b>Serial Number</b> <b>09/926,377</b>
	<b>Applicant</b> <b>Thomas GRASSL</b>	
	<b>Filing Date</b> <b>December 13, 2001</b>	<b>Group</b> <b>2813</b>

**U.S. Patent Documents**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Patentee/Applicant	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	3,648,131	Mar. 1972	Stuby			

**Foreign Patent Documents**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Publication Date	Country/Agency	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No

**Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Place of Publication, Etc.)**


<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.